DEPARTMENT OF VIL RIGHTS



Dr. Nanette Lee Reynolds. DIRECTOR

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The Department of Civil Rights is headed by the Civil Rights Commission. The 8-member commission was established by the Constitution of 1963. Members of the commission are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for 4-year terms.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

	Term expires
GEORGE E. Brown, Southfield	Dec. 31, 2003
ALBERT CALILLE, Plymouth	Dec. 31, 2001
EVELYN L. CRANE, Detroit	Dec. 31, 2002
RICHARD J. GARCIA, East Lansing	Dec. 31, 2001
YAHYA MOSSA-BASHA, West Bloomfield	Dec. 31, 2003
Valerie P. Simmons, Grand Rapids	Dec. 31, 2000
GARY H. TORGOW, Oak Park	Dec. 31, 2000
Francisco J. Villarruel, Livonia	Dec. 31, 2002

The Civil Rights Commission appoints the director of the department who develops and administers programs under its direction. The Department of Civil Rights, in implementing the mission of the commission, investigates alleged discrimination against any person in employment, public accommodations, public service, education, or housing, as prohibited by the state constitution, civil rights laws, and the governor's executive directives. The department also seeks to secure and protect equal opportunity and equal treatment by providing activities to prevent discrimination and by assisting in the development of affirmative action programs.

Regional offices are located in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing.

The department offers the following services:

Education and Outreach efforts, which include conducting educational workshops and conferences, and building coalitions to resolve community conflicts.

The Business and Economics Services Team works to prevent litigations through education and outreach; meet its regulatory reduction goal; serve as a business liaison; and provide strong and fair enforcement when voluntary compliance fails.

Complaint Resolution, which involves investigating and resolving complaints of unlawful discrimination based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, arrest record, and handicap.

The **Office of Public Information** prepares and distributes brochures, pamphlets, videos, and other materials on civil rights laws and programs.

The Office of Legal Affairs interprets civil rights laws and court decisions.

The **Research Division** analyzes census data and emerging civil rights issues. The staff also maintains one of the largest civil rights libraries in the world.

The Commission on Indian Affairs, Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs, and the Michigan Women's Commission were transferred to the Department of Civil Rights from the Department of Management and Budget by Executive Order No. 1991-29.

COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

[Editor's Note: Pursuant to Executive Reorganization Order No. 1999-6, effective October 20, 1999, all the statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Indian Affairs Commission were transferred to the Director of the Department of Civil Rights by a Type III transfer, as defined by Section 3 of Act No. 380 of the Public Acts of 1965, as amended, being Section 16.103 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.]

The **Commission on Indian Affairs** was created by Act 195 of 1972. The commission works with federal, state, and local agencies to assist tribal governments, Indian organizations, and Indian individuals with problems concerning education, employment, civil rights, health, housing, treaty rights, and any other right or service due Indian people of this state.

COMMISSION ON SPANISH SPEAKING AFFAIRS

[Editor's Note: Pursuant to Executive Reorganization Order No. 2000-5, effective May 10, 2000, all the statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs were transferred to the Director of the Department of Career Development by a Type I transfer, as defined by Section 3 of Act No. 380 of the Public Acts of 1965, as amended, being Section 16.103 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.]

The **Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs** was created by Act 164 of 1975. The commission and staff work with federal, state, and local agencies to assist Hispanic persons with problems of education, employment, civil rights, health, and housing needs. Specifically, the commission develops recommendations concerning programs, policies, and statutes affecting the 250,000 Hispanics in the state.

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Term expires
BARBARA CABLE, Grand Rapids July 15, 1998
CLAIRE L. CORRIVEAU, HerseyJuly 15, 2000
BEVERLY J. DEVYAK, Dearborn HeightsJuly 15, 1999
LYNDA EGBERT-EVERS, KalamazooJuly 15, 1999
Patti Garrett, Kingsford (Chair)July 15, 1998
ELHAM JABIRU-SHAYOTA, Bloomfield Hills July 15, 1998
MYRAH L. KIRKWOOD, DetroitJuly 15, 1998
MELANIE J. MYERS, Lathrup VillageJuly 15, 2000
Anne B. Norlander, Battle Creek July 15, 1999
CAROL S. NORTHCOTT-UTCHEN, Rogers CityJuly 15, 2000
SHIRLEY A. OKERSTROM, Traverse City July 15, 1998
ELIZABETH M. PEZZETTI, Bloomfield HillsJuly 15, 2000
SUZANNE SAREINI, DearbornJuly 15, 1999
MARTHA THUEMMEL, Port AustinJuly 15, 2000
VACANCY July 15, 1999

ex officio

MAURA CAMPBELL, Department of Consumer/Industry Services MARIA CANDY, Family Independence Agency DEANNA HOPKINS, Department of Civil Service CAROLYN LOGAN, Department of Education

The Michigan Women's Commission was created by Act 1 of 1968. The functions of the commission are as follows: to stimulate and encourage, throughout the state, the study and review of the status of women; strengthen home life by directing attention to critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers, homemakers, and workers; to recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against women in public and private employment and civil and political rights; to promote more effective methods for enabling women to develop their skills, continue their education, and be retrained; to make surveys and appoint advisory committees in the fields of, but not limited to, education, social services, labor laws and employment policies, law enforcement, health, new and expanded services, legal rights, family relations, and volunteer services; and to secure appropriate recognition of women's accomplishments and contributions to the state.

There are 19 voting members of the commission. Fifteen commission members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve 3-year terms. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed. The 4 ex officio voting members of the commission are appointed by the departments they represent.